Gandhi sincere and forthright, leading him to believe that it will not be difficult to normalise relations; and

(b) if so, what is the re-action of Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) After Prime Minister's recent meetings with President Zia in New York, Oman and Dhaka respectively, such reports have been seen in the press. There were further discussions between Prime Minister and President Zia on December 17, 1985 and concrete decisions were taken. A statement has been made in the House on December 17, 1985 about these discussions.

Prime Minister's talks with World Leaders in Oman

3176. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister and the other officials accompanying him had talks and discussions with a number of Heads of States, Prime Minister and other Ministers and officials during their visit to Oman in November, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what assurances were given by each side to the other; and

(d) what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister, during his visit to Oman from 17 to 18 November, met and held discussions with the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the king of Jordan, the Sultan of Brunei, the Deputy Prime Minister of Tanzania and the Minister of National Security of Sri Lanka. The discussions covered bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Dhaka conference of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation

3177. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation at the first summit conference of the seven countries held on the 7th and 8th December, 1985 at Dhaka, took any decision to widen the areas of co-operation in the already indentified areas;

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines thereof;

(c) what have been the achievements of the Conference; and

(d) what decision has been taken to have a permanent Secretariat for South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation and where it is likely to be located?

THE MINISTER OF ENTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They have decided to convene a meeting of experts on the problem of terrorism and another one on drug trafficking and abuse.

(c) Attention is drawn to the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs on SAARC Summit in Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1985.

(d) It has been decided that the Association will have a permanent

Secretariat. Heads of State or Government have directed the Foreign Ministers to consider details regarding its location, structure, functions and financing and submit those for the consideration of the Heads of State or Government.

Reported threat to India from Pakistan US-UK armada in Arabian sea

3178. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Weekly 'BLITZ' of 7th December, 1985 under the caption "New Pak threat to India" shadow war in Arbian sea;

(b) whether Government have assessed the danger posed by the presence of combined might of the Pakistan-US-UK armada in the north Arabian sea to India's shore establishments; and

(c) whether suitable steps to safeguard the security of the country have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Government is aware of the press report.

(b) The movements of foreign warships in the Arabian Sea are regularly monitored, and the threat posed by the presence of these forces is constantly reviewed.

(c) The Government of India keeps all developments having a bearing on the country's security under constant observation in order to take appropriate measures from time to time and to maintain full defence prepardness. The Indian Navy is being constantly re-equipped, modernised and developed.

Setting up of Atomic Power Plants during the Seventh Five Year Plan

3179. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new atomic power plants are proposed to be set up in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; if so, what amount has been earmarked therefor; and

(b) the places where these are likely to be set up and the volume of power targeted to be produced by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Sites at Kaiga in Karnataka and Rawatbhata in Rajasthan have been announced by the Government for setting up atomic power stations of 2 x 235 MWe capacity each during Seventh Five Year Plan. Additional sites for setting up atomic power stations are under consideration of Government. For the Seventh Plan, an outlay of Rs. 1410 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission for the power programme of the Department of Atomic Energy.

Changes in the procedure for issuing of passports

3180 SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wheher the procedure and formalities to be observed by the ap-